

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 2 is currently being cancelled, whereby the features of that claim have been incorporated into claims 1, 31 and 32 (but whereby the means plus function elements of claim 2 have been rewritten using non-means-plus-function language in claims 1, 31 and 32).

Claims 1 and 3-5, 31 and 32 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-5, 31 and 32 are now pending in this application for examination on the merits, whereby claims 6-30 were withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections – Written Description:

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, because “control signal generator” was not described in the specification. In reply, claim 1 has been amended to recite a transfer transistor controlling circuit that generates at least a control signal, as clearly described in the specification. See pages 27-31 of the specification, for example. Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1 now fully complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0251394 to Rhodes et al.; claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0036700 to Merrill; claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Rhodes et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0021121 to Nakamura; and claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to presently pending claims 1, 3-5, 31 and 32, for at least the reasons given below.

The Office Action basically asserts that the circuit structure shown in Rhodes and Merrill are the same as recited in the claims, and that certain features recited in the claims are “intended use or functional language [that] do not structurally distinguish [the] claims over the prior art.” While Applicant disagrees with this assertion, the independent claims 1, 31 and 32 have each been amended to recite specific features of controlling the transfer transistor and the storage transistor by first and second drivelines that are set to different voltage levels by a signal generator. Such voltage driveline setting features, as seen in Figure 3-1 of the drawings, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by any of the cited art of record.

Accordingly, presently pending claims 1, 3-5, 31 and 32 are patentable over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 17, 2008

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